institutions to support the efforts of individuals in raising of farm forestry;

(c) whether it is a fact that fuelwood requirements of the country would be of the order of 300 to 330 million tonnes; and

(d) if so, what efforts are being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) About 70% of the allocations for the Forest Sector is generally utilised for afforestation purposes for mainly the fuel wood & fodder requirement as also the raw material requirement of industries.

(b) The ongoing programme provides for the involvement of local bodies like Panchayats as well as financial institutions.

(c) and (d) Different estimates exist for the future requirement of fuel-wood in the country. However, the Advisory Board on Energy has estimated that the fuel-wood demand would be in the range of 300—330 million tonnes by 2004/05. One of the main objectives of the afforestation programme is to raise fuel-wood plantations.

Identification of Journalism as a Profession for Advancing Bank Loans

857. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the professions identified by the nationalised banks for advancing loans;

(b) whether journalism is considered one of such professions by the banks; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for not considering journalism as a profession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that "Professionals and self-employed persons" identified by the nationalised banks for advancing loans include Medical Practioners. Dentists, Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants, Lawyers or solicitors. Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, Construction Contractors or Management Consultants or a person trained in any other art or craft who holds either a degree or diploma from any institution established, aided or recognised by Government or a person who is considered by the bank as technically qualified or skilled in the field in which he is employed.

Free lance journalists can be classified under professionals and self-employed persons for the purpose of bank credit, provided they satisfy the terms and conditions stipulated for availment of credit assistance from banks under priority sector.

Granting of Loans for Banks to Professionals

858. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been formulated by the nationalised banks to disburse loans to various categories of professionals;

(b) if so, which professions are included in the category;

(c) how much time is taken on an average to sanction loans; and

(d) whether persons obtaining loans keep up their repayment schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO(: (a) The guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the

commercial banks regarding lending to the priority sector which include 'Professionals and Self-employed persons' stipulate norms regarding margin, security, interest rates and the types of borrowers covered under category of priority sectors.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the professionals and self-employed persons identified by the nationalised banks for advancing loans include Medical Practitioners, Dentists, Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants, Lawyers, or Solicitors, Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, Construction Contractors or Management Consultants or a person trained in any other art or craft who holds either a degree or diploma from any institution established, aided or recognised by the Government or a person who is considered by the bank as technically qualified or skilled in the field in which he is employed.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that all loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000 are to be disposed of within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000 within 8 to 9 weeks.

(d) Banks are required to satisfy themselves about the proposals before financing these professionals in regard to their requirements. They are also required to monitor and follow up the recovery of dues.

Deficit between Revenue Receipts and Revenue Expenditure

859. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gaps between receipts and expenditure has been increasing at much greater rate than estimamted, during the last three years;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to materialise its assurances about bringing down expenditure;

(c) whether any monitoring of expenditure is being done; and

(d) what quantum of reduction in non-Plan expenditure is contemplated to be achieved during 1988-89 and 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (d) Revenue deficits have been higher than estimates of deficit in the last three years. Government is however, keen to contain the deficit at a reasonable level and is taking all possible measures. These include, priortisation of programmes and activities of the Ministries/Departments by adopting Zero Base Budget approach and observance of economy in expenditure. Suitable instructions for containing expenditure to budgeted levels have also been issued and a close watch is being kept on various trends of expenditure with a view to taking corrective action. These intructions apply in particular to non-plan/non-developmental expenditure and their impact will be reflected over a period of years.

Price Rise

860. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that during the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan, Price rise have been unprecedented despite the promise of achieving zero rate of inflation during the Seventh Plan Period;

(b) whether Government have identified the reasons attributable to such spiralling inflation, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to meet the situation?